

## Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 SY-05 /024 W

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P 291457Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9313

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FOR EUR/SOV, A/OC, A/SY/SAS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ACOM UR US

SUBJECT: MISSING POUCH AND POSSIBLE SOVIET TAMPERING

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECOVERED UNCLASSIFIED POUCH BR-5752, INVOICE A-777, SENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT. THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF THE EVENTS AS WE UNDERSTAND IT:

A. THE MISSING POUCH WAS DISPATCHED ON AUGUST 31 WITH TWO OTHERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT VIA PAN AM. TWO OF THE POUCHES WERE RECEIVED BY MOSCOW ON SEPTEMBER 2, BUT THE THIRD WAS MISSING UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24 WHEN IT WAS PICKED UP BY C&R OFFICER FROM SOVIET CUSTOMS.

B. EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE MISSING POUCH WAS IN SOVIET HANDS FOR POSSIBLY AS LONG AS THREE WEEKS. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT IT DID NOT ARRIVE IN MOSCOW VIA PAN AM SINCE WE MEET EACH PAN AM FLIGHT INTO MOSCOW.

C. THERE ARE SOME INCONCLUSIVE SIGNS TO INDICATE THAT THE POUCH MAY HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH. THE CORD USED TO SEAL THE POUCH WAS MUCH LONGER THAN USUAL (20 INCHES VERSUS THE USUAL 4 INCHES). SOME OF THE ENVELOPES INSIDE THE POUCH SHOWED EVIDENCE OF POOR SEALING OR POSSIBLE RE-SEALING. A LETTER FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL TO AMBASSADOR STOESSEL IS BEING RETURNED UNOPENED ALONG WITH THE POUCH SEAL AND CORD TO SY/SAS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE POUCH WAS UNCLASSIFIED, ITS POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY TO SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SCRUTINY COULD PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO THIS EMBASSY. WE BELIEVE THE PROBLEM WAS CAUSED BY PAN AM'S MISDIRECTING THE POUCH. WE

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SUSPECT IT WAS MISDIRECTED EITHER IN NEW YORK OR COPENHAGEN

AND WE ARE CERTAIN IT WAS FLOWN INTO MOSCOW BY A FOREIGN CARRIER,  
PROBABLY AEROFLOT.

3. THE EMBASSY URGES THE DEPARTMENT ONCE AGAIN TO EMPHASIZE THE  
IMPORTANCE OF POUCH HANDLING TO PAN AM. UNLESS PROPER PROCEDURES  
ARE STRICTLY ADHERED TO BY PAN AM, SOVIET INTELLIGENCE IS PROVIDED  
WITH POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT  
EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MISSING POUCH AND POSSIBLE SOVIET TAMPERING  
**TAGS:** ACOM, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
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